their Annual Action Plan (AAP) targets of supply to power utilities during April-November 2008, due to lesser materialization as against quarterly planned movement of coal on account of various factors including loading/unloading and movement constraints, short-term production constraints in the linked source, increase in Plant Load Factor (PLF), increase in consumption of coal per unit of power generation and lesser materialization of targetted imports by power utilities, there has been an overall depletion of coal stocks at the power plants.

(c) to (f) During the meeting convened in Planning Commission in September, 2008, *inter-alia*, the position relating to supply of coal to power utilities during 2008-09 having regard to projected demand of power utilities and supply of coal from various sources including targetted import was discussed and it was decided that to meet power generation target and to have some cushion in coal supplies, additional 11 million tonnes was to be imported, out of which CIL was advised to import 4 million tonnes. CIL Board has approved import of 4 million tonnes of coal by CIL for power utilities during November, 2008 March, 2009. Since the overall requirement of power utilities during 2008-09 has been estimated at 373 million tonnes, it is expected that with planned production and the targetted imports by power utilities and CIL, sufficient coal would be available for meeting power generation requirements in the country during 2008-09.

Marine emergency relief fund

*149. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of marine casualties, loss of ships in the Indian territorial waters etc. have gone up in the last few years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to create Marine Emergency Relief Fund to address the above and other issues;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Committee of Experts has been set up to look into all these aspects; and

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Proposal for creation of Marine Emergency Fund is under consideration.

(c) and (d) A "Committee on urgent measures for prevention of marine casualties and emergency response" has studied and made recommendations on the measures to reduce the marine casualties in the Indian coastal waters. The recommendations made by the Committee include preventive and rehabilitation measures including restriction on old vessels; stringent inspections and creation of Emergency Fund. The Committee has also made recommendations for an emergency response mechanism for responding in emergency situations; salvage and oil

pollution recovery mechanism. Various other measures including making appropriate legislative changes to deal with the emergency situations have also been recommended.

Land management in major ports

*150. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has written to the Indian Ports Association to prepare a comprehensive information system on land management pattern in major ports of the country;

(b) if so, whether response has been received from the association;

(c) if so, the concrete measures and steps his Ministry is considering to take to improve the major ports in the country;

(d) whether all the State Governments concerned have to provide more land, etc. for development of ports; and

(e) whether the Union Government has approved Rs. 1008 crores for development of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R BAALU): (a) and (b) The Union Ministry for Shipping has requested Indian Ports Association (IPA) to evaluate the online system of land management of Tuticorin Port Trust. The Tuticorin Port Trust has recently introduced an online system to monitor and handle its land in order to bring transparency which includes digitization of all plots of land with its status and classification, automatic generation of alert message and online request for processing. The Indian Ports Association has been asked to evaluate this online system and make necessary study, if it is workable, so that it could be implemented in all major Port Trusts.

(c) Improvement/modernization of ports is a continuous process where various projects are taken up by the individual ports based on their requirement and forecast. The Department of Shipping has formulated a National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) for modernization of the Port sector of facilitate enhanced private investment, improve service quality and promote competitiveness. Under the NMDP, 276 projects have been identified in the port sector for implementation in the Major ports which are to be taken up in a period from 2004-05 to 2011-12. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities in the port sector which include berth development, deepening of channel, procurement of equipment and port craft, rail/road connectivity and other associated work. Till date 36 projects of the port sector with total cost of Rs.3930 crores have been completed under NMDP.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

National highway development in NER

*151. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: